

REMARKS

No amendments have been made with this communication. Claims 1-19 and 26-37 are currently pending.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-8, 10, 14-15, 18, 26-27, 29-31, and 36 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Greco (US 2003/0070056 A1). In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 3, 6, 9, 11-13, 16-17, 19, 28, 32-35 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Greco reference in view of Albrecht et al., (US 2002/0159185 A1), Plotkin et al. (US 5,297,124), and Goodman et al. (US 2002/0169521 A1).

With this Response, Applicants have submitted a signed copy of a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.131. The Declaration, and the accompanying Exhibit, establish that Applicants conceived the inventions set forth in claims 1-19 and 26-37 of this application prior to October 5, 2001, and worked on such inventions with due diligence from prior to October 5, 2001 to the filing date of this application. Accordingly, in view of the Declaration and Exhibit, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of claims 1-19 and 26-37, which are based upon the Greco reference having an effective date of October 5, 2001 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), should now be withdrawn.

Applicants do not acquiesce to or admit in any way to the propriety of the rejections advanced by the Examiner under sections 102 and 103 with respect to claims 1-19 and 26-37. On the contrary, such claims recite a number of features that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the applied references. The Declaration should render moot such rejections in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.131 and expedite allowance of the pending claims.

CONCLUSION

All claims in this application are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims. Please charge any

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additional fees or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 09-0069. The Examiner is invited to telephone the below-signed attorney to discuss this application.

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By:

5/3/4

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